

Serial No. 09/788,473

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims are set forth below. Cancelled claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (previously presented), (cancelled), (withdrawn), or (new).

Please AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic-mail transmission/reception client apparatus for transmitting and receiving electronic mails, comprising:
 - a condition setting unit which sets in said electronic-mail transmission/reception apparatus a condition for forming a group of electronic mails from among electronic mails previously transmitted or received by the client apparatus, and displaying a listing comprising ~~list of at least one information item on~~ at least one title of at least one electronic mail of the group which has been transmitted or received;
 - a sorting unit which sorts ~~said at least one information item~~ the electronic mails of the group into a hierarchical structure according to subordinate relationships between the electronic mails in the group said condition; and
 - a list displaying unit which displays a list comprising indicia of ~~of said at least one information item~~ electronic mail which is sorted by said sorting unit.
2. (Original) An electronic-mail transmission/reception apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said sorting unit sorts said at least one information item according to attribute information which each of said at least one electronic mail has.
3. (Original) An electronic-mail transmission/reception apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said attribute information is contained in a header of said at least one electronic mail.
4. (Original) An electronic-mail transmission/reception apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a display information removing unit which removes a portion of information displayed by said list displaying unit, according to display capacity of said list displaying unit.

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5. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a client program which makes a computer execute processing for transmitting and receiving electronic mails, said client program further makes said computer ~~realize~~ perform a process comprising:

a condition setting unit which sets in said computer a condition for forming a group of electronic mails from among electronic mails previously transmitted or received by the client apparatus, and displaying a list of at least one information item on a listing comprising at least one title of at least one electronic mail of the group which has been transmitted or received;

a sorting unit which sorts said ~~at least one information item~~ the electronic mails of the group into a hierarchical structure according to said ~~condition~~ subordinate relationships between the electronic mails in the group; and

a list displaying unit which displays a list of said ~~comprising indicia~~ at least one information item, electronic mail which is sorted by said sorting unit.

6. (New) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a listing displaying unit that displays, in the form of a tree, subordinate relations between electronic mails in the hierarchical structure.

7. (New) A method used in an e-mail client to display messages sent and received by a user, the method comprising:

accessing stored e-mail messages previously sent and received by the user;

processing a group of like-titled of the e-mail messages to determine a hierarchical structure of the group comprising levels of e-mail messages, where like-titled e-mail messages in a given layer are hierarchically related to e-mail messages in a level above based on their having been sent as replies-to or forwardings-of respective linked-to e-mail messages in the level above, and where like-titled e-mail messages in a level below the given level are hierarchically related to respective e-mail messages in the given level to which they were respectively sent as replies-to or forwardings-of, and where the like-titled e-mail messages have a same substantive title;

displaying indicia of the e-mail messages in a tree structure corresponding to the hierarchical structure, where the tree shows which of the like-titled e-mail messages were sent as replies-to or forwardings-of a same e-mail message, and also shows which of the like-titled e-mail messages were received as replies-to or forwardings-of a same e-mail message, whereby the user can view the tree to visually determine a logical sequence of

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exchanging the like-titled e-mail messages .

8. (New) A method for an e-mail client to display messages sent and received by a user, the method comprising:

accessing e-mail messages previously sent and received by the user;
forming a hierarchy of mutually related e-mail messages based on information indicating which messages were sent as replies-to or forwardings-of other messages; and
displaying a tree structure corresponding to the hierarchy, the tree showing which messages were sent as replies-to or forwardings-of which respective other messages in the hierarchy.

9. (New) A method according to claim 8, where the hierarchy has a property that when a first like-titled e-mail message in the hierarchy was sent chronologically after a second like-titled e-mail message, then the first like-titled e-mail message is lower in the hierarchy than the second message.

10. (New) A method according to claim 8, where the e-mail messages of the hierarchy are mutually related by having a same substantive title.